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Evening Papers .. 1st November, 1944.
Morning Papers .. 2nd November, 1944.

RETAIL PRICES - SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1944.

All Items - "C" Series.

Index numbers for September quarter 1944 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 1,071, Toowoomba 1,084, Rockhampton 1,074, Townsville 1,117, Bundaberg 1,057, and Warwick 1,063.

The figures show the following percentage increases or decreases when compared with those for the periods shown.

City			September Quarter, 1944 - Percentage Increase or Decrease Compared With -		
			Year Ended June, 1939.	September Quarter, 1943.	June Quarter, 1944.
Brisbane	..	..	24.1	-0.3	-0.1
Toowoomba	..	..	27.4	0.6	-0.1
Rockhampton	..	..	24.7	0.0	-0.2
Townsville	..	..	22.5	0.3	-0.2
Bundaberg	..	..	25.7	-0.1	-0.3
Warwick	..	..	29.3	0.4	0.1

Food and groceries, clothing and footwear, and the miscellaneous group of items comprising household drapery and hardware, fuel, light, fares, etc., have shown the following percentage changes during the last quarter and since 1938-39.

City	Food and Groceries		Clothing and Footwear		Miscellaneous Items	
	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
	Increase or	Increase or	Increase or	Increase or	Increase or	Increase or
	Decrease on	Decrease on	Decrease on	Decrease on	Decrease on	Decrease on
	Year Ended	June Qr.,	Year Ended	June Qr.,	Year Ended	June Qr.,
	June, 1939.	1944.	June, 1939.	1944.	June, 1939.	1944.
Brisbane	12.6	-0.3	72.4	0.3	19.6	-0.2
Toowoomba	23.0	-0.4	69.4	0.3	18.8	-0.2
Rockhampton	11.7	-0.7	72.4	0.4	20.9	-0.4
Townsville	9.8	-0.2	73.6	0.1	18.9	-0.3
Bundaberg	13.4	-0.8	71.6	-0.1	18.2	0.0
Warwick	16.5	-0.2	72.0	0.4	21.3	-0.1

Food and Rent (4 and 5 roomed houses) - "B" Series.

Index Numbers for September quarter, 1944 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 922, Toowoomba 943, Rockhampton 907, Townsville 975, Bundaberg 884, Warwick 887.

From June quarter 1944 to September quarter 1944 this index decreased in all towns. The percentage decreases were as follows, Brisbane 0.2, Toowoomba 0.3, Rockhampton 0.4, Townsville 0.1, Bundaberg 0.6, and Warwick 0.1.

The decrease in all towns was mainly due to a seasonal fall in the price of eggs.

Rents were unaltered in all towns.

Compared with September quarter 1943 the combined Food and Rent Index decreased in Brisbane by 0.3%, but showed the following percentage increases in the other towns, Toowoomba 3.0, Rockhampton 1.0, Townsville 1.1, Bundaberg 0.1, and Warwick 2.0.

The Food and Grocery Index declined in Brisbane (0.4%) and remained stationary in Bundaberg, but showed the following percentage increases in the other towns, Toowoomba 4.7, Rockhampton 1.5, Townsville 1.8, and Warwick 2.4.

The decrease in Brisbane was due to the reduction in the price of potatoes and the increase in Toowoomba was due to an increase in the price of milk and meat which offset the decrease in potatoes.

Rents remained stationary in Toowoomba and Townsville and fell by 0.1 per cent. in Rockhampton, but rose in Brisbane (0.1%), Bundaberg (0.6%) and Warwick (1.1%).

Compared with the Index for 1938-39 the "B" series index increased by the following percentages - Brisbane 8.2, Toowoomba 14.9, Rockhampton 8.4, Townsville 6.4, Bundaberg 10.6, and Warwick 15.5.

Increases were also recorded in all towns for Food and Groceries compared with 1938-39; the percentage changes are shown in the second table on the previous page.

Comparison of Costs in the Queensland Cities.

The following table shows the amounts necessary in September quarter 1944 to purchase what would have cost £1 in Brisbane.

City			All Items	Food and Groceries	Rent (4 and 5 Rooms)	Clothing and Footwear
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brisbane	..	..	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0
Toowoomba	..	..	1. 0. 3	1. 0. 9	19. 11	19. 8
Rockhampton	..	..	1. 0. 1	1. 0. 9	17. 9	1. 0. 5
Townsville	..	..	1. 0. 10	1. 1. 9	1. 0. 1	1. 0. 5
Bundaberg	..	..	19. 9	1. 1. 3	15. 7	1. 0. 2
Warwick	..	..	19. 10	1. 0. 5	17. 1	19. 10

Comparison of Commonwealth and State Basic Wages.

In the following statement comparisons are made between the prevailing basic wages in the various Capital Cities and States. The margins between the Brisbane (or Queensland) figure and the other figures in these columns show the advantage to the Queensland State Basic Wage earner.

State	METROPOLITAN				STATE AVERAGES b.			
	Price Index Nos. "C" Series	Amount required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Brisbane	Actual Basic Wage a.	Margin in Favour of Brisbane	Price Index Nos. "C" Series	Amount required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Queensland	State Basic Wage	Margin in Favour of Q'land.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.
Queensland	1071	4. 17. 0	4. 17. 0	-	1075	-	4. 17. 8	-
N.S.W.	1146	5. 3. 10	4. 19. 0	4. 10	1142	5. 3. 9	4. 19. 0	4. 9
Victoria	1140	5. 3. 3	4. 18. 0	5. 3	1136	5. 3. 3	4. 17. 10	5. 5
South Aust.	1101	4. 19. 9	4. 14. 0	5. 9	1096	4. 19. 7	4. 14. 0	5. 7
West. Aust.	1110	5. 0. 6	4. 19. 11	7	1118	5. 1. 7	5. 6. 5	1. 2
Tasmania	1110	5. 0. 6	4. 14. 0	6. 6	1094	4. 19. 4	4. 13. 0	6. 4

a. Current State Basic Wage.

b. Average for 5 principal cities in each State, weighted by population.

RETAIL PRICES INDEX.

Table No. 1.

THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX - "C" SERIES.
(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals.)

City	Year Ended Decr. 1928	Year Ended June 1939	Year Ended Sept. 1944.	QUARTERS ENDED -				
				Sept. 1943	Decr. 1943	March 1944	June 1944	Sept. 1944
Brisbane	917	863	1071	1074	1068	1072	1072	1071
Toowoomba	906	851	1085	1078	1083	1087	1085	1084
Rockhampton	903	861	1075	1074	1073	1075	1076	1074
Townsville	1023	912	1116	1114	1113	1116	1119	1117
Bundaberg	(b)	841	1057	1058	1053	1056	1060	1057
Weighted Average - Five Cities (a) ..	915	864	1075	1076	1072	1075	1076	1075
Warwick	914	822	1060	1059	1057	1059	1062	1063

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

Table No. 2.

FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) - "B" SERIES.
(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals.)

City	Year Ended Decr. 1928	Year Ended June 1939	Year Ended Sept. 1944	QUARTERS ENDED -				
				Sept. 1943	Decr. 1943	March 1944	June 1944	Sept. 1944
Brisbane	901	852	921	925	914	925	924	922
Toowoomba	833	821	942	916	934	945	946	943
Rockhampton	858	837	907	898	900	909	911	907
Townsville	1047	916	972	964	962	973	976	975
Bundaberg	(b)	799	885	883	878	887	889	884
Weighted Average - Five Cities (a) ..	892	851	924	924	916	927	927	925
Warwick	841	768	882	870	871	880	888	887

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

Table No. 3.

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES - FOOD AND GROCERIES.
Brisbane.

Commodity & Unit of Quantity	Year Ended June 1939	MONTH OF		Commodity & Unit of Quantity	Year Ended June 1939	MONTH OF	
		June 1944	Sept. 1944			June 1944	Sept. 1944
	d.	d.	d.		d.	d.	d.
Bread .. 2 lb.	5.33	5.50	5.50	Oats .. flaked .. 1 lb.	3.57	4.07	4.06
Flour .. 2 lb.	3.73	4.09	4.09	Milk 1 qt.	6.00	7.10	7.10
Tea .. 1 lb.	26.99	27.05	27.05	Beef - Sirloin			
Sugar .. 1 lb.	3.98	3.98	3.98	Roast 1 lb.	8.73	11.90	11.90
Jam (Plum) 1½ lb.	8.02	12.55	12.45	Beef - Steak			
Raisins .. 1 lb.	10.57	12.55	12.55	Rump 1 lb.	11.34	16.90	16.90
Potatoes 7 lb.	14.88	8.37	8.37	Beef - Steak			
Onions .. 1 lb.	2.93	3.00	3.00	Chuck 1 lb.	5.83	7.90	7.95
Soap .. 1 lb.	6.20	7.03	7.03	Beef - Rolled			
Butter .. 1 lb.	19.00	19.91	19.91	Brisket 1 lb.	5.48	7.90	7.95
Cheese .. 1 lb.	13.28	15.00	15.00	Mutton - leg .. 1 lb.	7.75	8.45	8.50
Eggs .. 1 doz.	19.69	27.73	22.00	Mutton - chops			
				Loin 1 lb.	7.78	8.45	8.40